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25 August 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

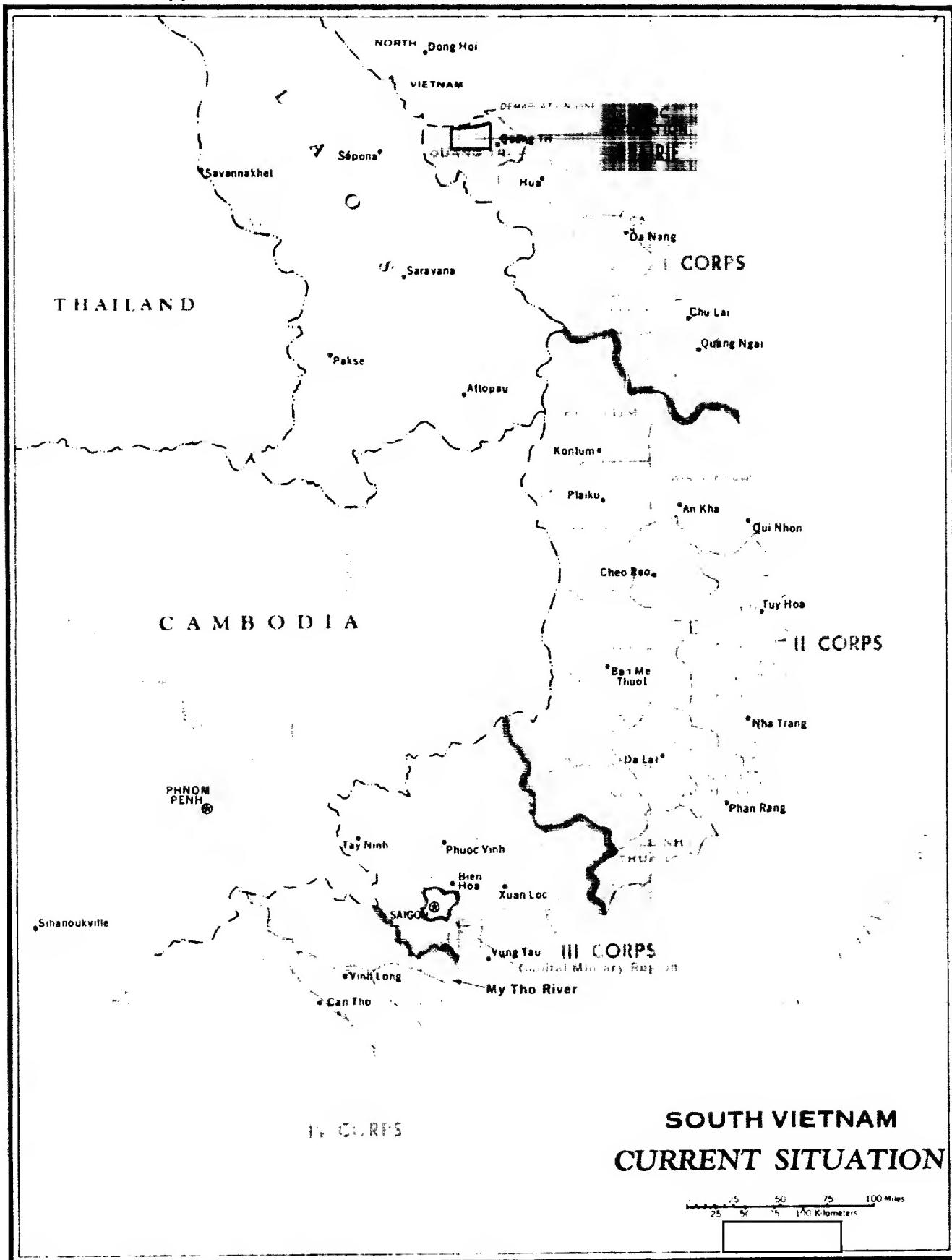
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4. Notes: [] Laos; []
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: US Marines participating in Operation PRAIRIE encountered a well entrenched enemy force on 23 August some five miles south of the demilitarized zone in Quang Tri Province. (See Map)

Subsequent fighting, which was reported continuing yesterday, has resulted in 17 Viet Cong killed and two captured thus far. US casualties in the action total nine killed.

Further south, an estimated battalion of Viet Cong attacked a government militia company defending an outpost near the capital of Binh Thuan Province yesterday, killing 59 and wounding 22 during a 25-minute battle. Ten civilians also were killed and 60 weapons lost; 41 Viet Cong were reported killed. A government relief force has not yet established enemy contact. (See Map)

On 23 August, six US Navy river patrol boats engaged an enemy force on the My Tho River about 35 miles southwest of Saigon. The navy patrol killed two Viet Cong attempting to cross the river and captured a sampan containing a number of highly classified enemy documents. Despite intense automatic weapons fire from Viet Cong units on both banks of the river, there were no allied casualties and the patrol boats received only slight damage.

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Various indicators are tentatively pointing towards an improvement in the country's inflationary problems.

(continued)

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The prices of major imports have been dropping this month, after an anticipated rise in June and July following the government's currency devaluation. A tight credit situation and the continuing sale of gold by the government now has reduced the unofficial piaster prices of gold and US dollars to their lowest levels of the year. The free market price of pork, which rose to a dangerous point in late July, has recently dropped close to official levels with an increase in the arrival of hogs at Saigon slaughterhouses.

The over-all retail price index remains high, however, and there has been no fundamental relief yet felt by the majority of the population. [redacted]

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NOTES

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Laos: Friction between Premier Souvanna Phouma and National Assembly members over enlarging the cabinet membership continues. Assembly members declared on 19 August that they are not satisfied with Souvanna's current offer to fill only two vacant cabinet posts. The members are also distressed over reports that Minister of Interior Pheng Phongsavan, long a target of Assembly members for his leftist tendencies, will be retained. Souvanna had earlier agreed "in principle" to accept Pheng's resignation.

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THE PRESIDENT

The Vice President

Executive Offices of the White House

Special Assistants to the President

The Scientific Adviser to the President

The Director of the Budget

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

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Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Administrator

The Atomic Energy Commission

The Chairman

The National Security Agency

The Director

The United States Information Agency

The Director

The National Indications Center

The Director

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